Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/06/16: CIA-RDP90-00845R000100370004-3

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WASHINGTON POST 20 November 1984

British Magazine Apologizes for KAL Flight Spy Story

United Press International

LONDON, Nov. 19—Korean Airlines accepted a public apology and a "substantial" sum of money today from a magazine that suggested the KAL Boeing 747 shot down by Soviets last year was on a spy mission coordinated with the United States.

Lawyers for KAL said the article in Defense Attache, a bimonthly British magazine devoted to defense matters, could not be "further from the truth."

Defense Attache reported in its third edition last year that KAL's Fiight 007 was on a spy mission when shot down by a Soviet missile on Sept. 1, 1983, near Sakhalin Island off the Soviet Pacific Coast. All 269 persons on board were killed in the attack, which the airline said occurred when the plane—on a flight from New York to Seoul, via Anchorage—strayed into Soviet airspace.

"The effect of the article was that [our] client's aircraft was on a spy mission carefully and deliber-

ately coordinated with United States intelligence authorities," KAL lawyers said.

Lawyers for the magazine told the British high court in a public announcement that "there is no foundation for any suggestion that either Korean Airlines or any of its staff on the aircraft concerned took part in a spy mission."